

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 10 Feb 57

SUBJECT Diphtheria Epidemic in Fukien

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1. Diphtheria has been prevalent in Fukien since last October. In mid-October more than 60 schools and other organizations in Foochow City were suffering from the effects of this disease, and it was also prevalent in the suburbs among army units and villagers. Over 230 persons in Foochow City died between mid-October and mid-November, as well as over 420 in suburban garrisons and villages. The total number of infections in Foochow, the majority of whom are children, is over 4000. The Central Government Ministry of Health and the East China Department of Health consider the situation very serious and have made a special allocation of diphtheria serum. The first shipment of 100,000 cc arrived on 18 November and was allocated to the Health Department of the Fukien Military Region to use in a universal inoculation campaign. Public and private schools in Foochow closed on 22 November. Various organizations, including the neighborhood organizations, are conducting a universal preventive inoculation campaign. All citizens of Foochow have been advised to wear masks over their mouths.
2. In early December the Medical Department of the East China Area sent an additional 100,000 cc of diphtheria serum for the general inoculation campaign among children 8 to 15 years old. By 20 December the epidemic was gradually subsiding.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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